



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National
Historical Park

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Independence National Historical Park

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Germantown White House wins Preservation Achievement Award from Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

Philadelphia – The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia today awarded a Preservation Achievement Award to Independence National Historical Park for the historic preservation of the Germantown White House. Constructed in the 18th and 19th centuries, the Germantown White House became a part of Independence NHP in 1948. The house served as President George Washington's residence and office during the height of Philadelphia's yellow fever epidemic in 1793. Washington returned to this house with his family and household, including enslaved Africans, during the summer of 1794. The house is free and open for public visitation Wednesday through Sunday, 12 – 4 pm.

The 18-month renovation, completed in July 2009, restored two structures: the Germantown White House and the adjacent Brighthurst House. Extensive restoration of the exterior of the Germantown White House included the rear two-story porch, cornices, windows, shutters, stucco and roofing. Interior work focused on installation of life safety and fire suppression systems and restoration of the 18th century paint colors. A significant component of the work was the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system, which provides a green alternative for heating and cooling the houses. The Brighthurst House was also completely renovated and now features an exhibit space with interactive displays highlighting Germantown History, the 1777 Battle of Germantown, President Washington's Refuge and Retreat, and the Morris family legacy. Additional spaces include restrooms, gift shop and theater. Together, the two houses offer an exceptional visitor experience to the Germantown White House.

“As the only remaining Washington residence in Philadelphia, the Germantown White House is a significant historical structure, so I am grateful that this award recognizes both the historical importance of the house and the renovation that was done. I particularly want to thank the Denver Service Center, whose staff has provided assistance for this project since 2001,” said Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod. The Denver Service Center of the National Park Service provides planning, design, and construction service support to the National Park Service as well as contracting, project management and visual information support.

A unit of the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park covers almost 55 acres in Philadelphia's Old City, and includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court, and other historic buildings associated with the founding of the United

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States. The park is open from 9:00 am daily with the exception of Christmas day. A visit to Independence National Historical Park should start at the Independence Visitor Center, located at 6th and Market Streets. Here, visitors can pick up a park brochure, park map, and the free, timed tickets required for Independence Hall. For more information visit the park's website, <http://www.nps.gov/inde> or follow us at twitter.com/independencenhp. For information about the Germantown White house visit www.nps.gov/demo.

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